



A DISNEY COMICS LIMITED SERIES

1 OF 4 \$1.50 US
\$1.95 CAN

Disney's

THE LITTLE MERMAID





KJF001-1



Once upon a time...

THERE WAS A YOUNG LADY NAMED ARIEL WHO CAME FROM BENEATH THE WAVES TO BE WITH HER PRINCE, RISKED EVERYTHING FOR HIS LOVE, AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



SPLASH



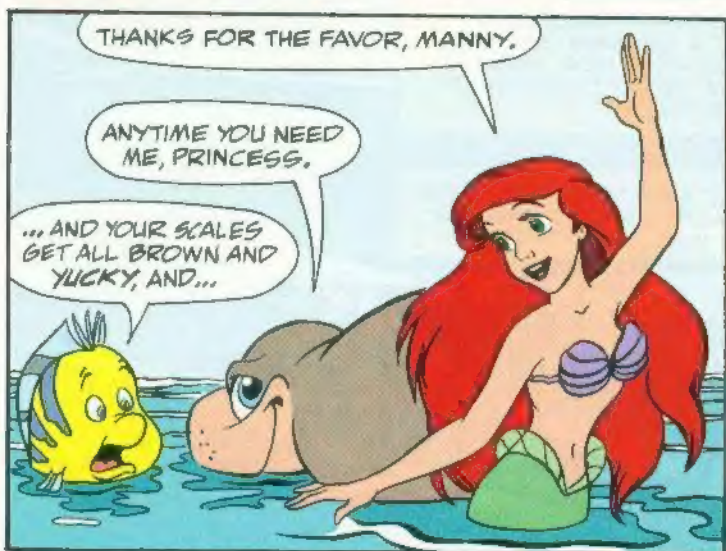
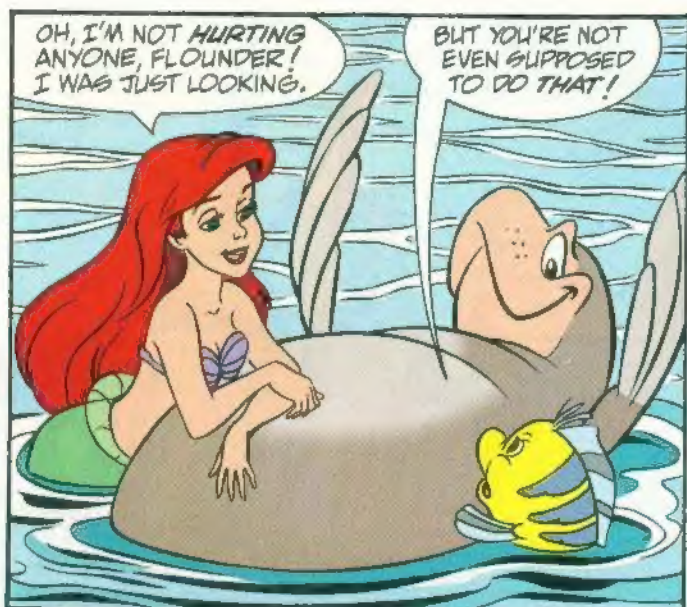
BUT THERE WERE MANY YEARS OF HOPING, DREAMING AND ADVENTURING BEFORE HER LIFE ON LAND BEGAN, YEARS SUCH AS THIS ONE--WHEN SHE HAD JUST TURNED FIFTEEN--

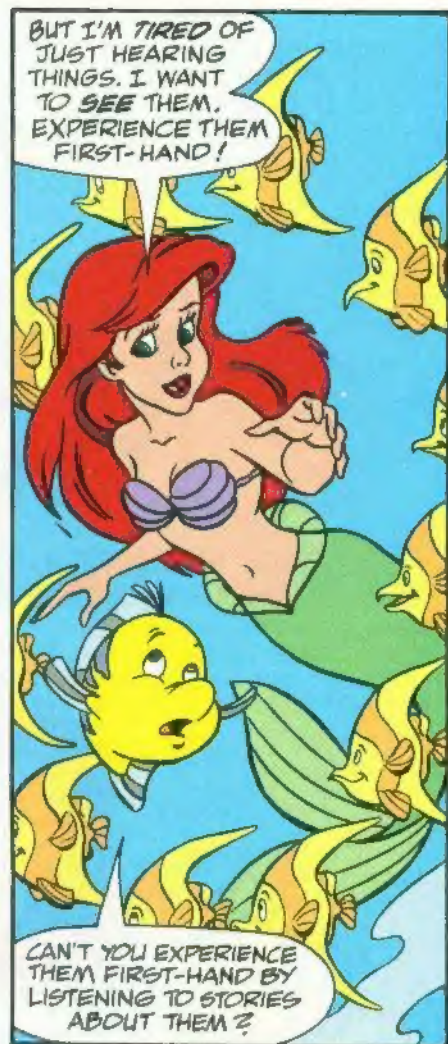
AND A LIFE ABOVE THE WAVES WAS A MERE FANTASY. AS MUCH OF A FANTASY TO THE GIRL, WHO LIVED ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, AS HER OWN EXISTENCE WOULD BE TO THOSE WHO LIVED ON PARQUET FLOORS.

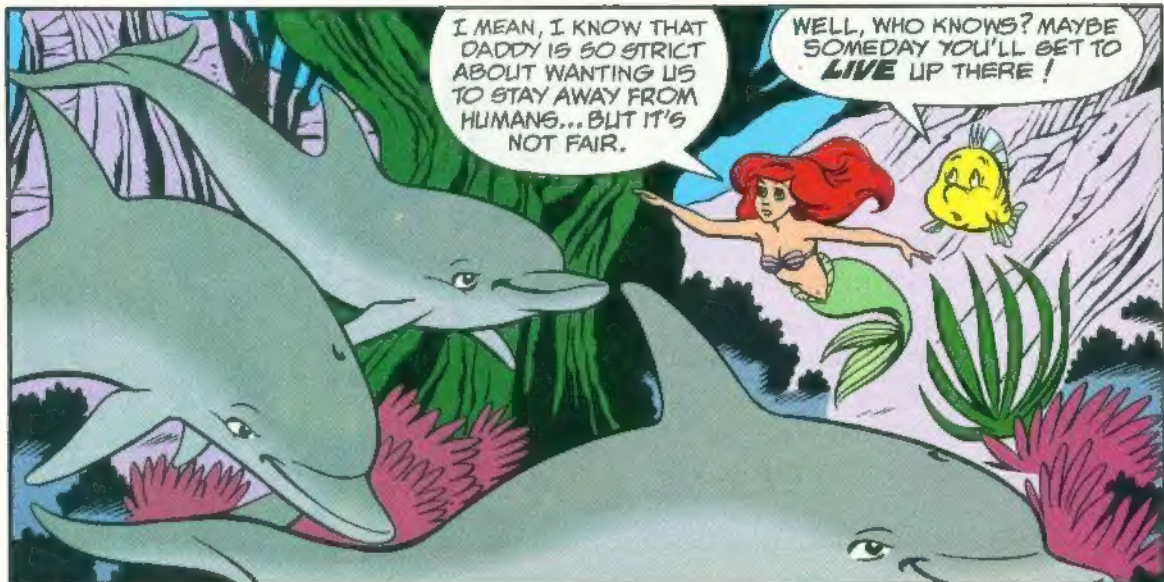
FOR, WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THEY WERE STILL THE FORBIDDEN HUMANS. AND SHE, OF COURSE, WAS...

Disney's

THE LITTLE
MERMAID









WHERE IS DAT GIRL?!



SHE KNEW WE HAD REHEARSAL TODAY! WHAT DOES SHE T'INK SHE'S DOING--

--CAUSING ME GRIEF LIKE DIS?!

OH, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS WITH ARIEL.. SHE JUST GETS INVOLVED WITH THINGS AND, WELL ... YOU KNOW.



DAT GIRL CANNOT GO THROUGH LIFE WIT' YOU MAKING EXCUSES FOR HER ALL DA TIME, ALANA!

SHE GOT TO LEARN TO STAND UP ON HER OWN TWO FINS! IF YOUR FATHER HEARS ABOUT DIS ...



DADDY HAS BUSINESS AWAY, AND HE LEFT ME IN CHARGE, SO HE'S NOT GOING TO FIND OUT.

UNLESS SOMEBODY TELLS HIM, RIGHT, AQUATA?



OH, ARISTA, YOU WOULDN'T...!

WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE TO SHOW UP FOR CHOIR REHEARSALS AND LITTLE ARIEL GETS TO DO WHATEVER SHE WANTS.

OR ARE YOU JUST AFRAID THAT DADDY WILL BE DISAPPOINTED IN HIS ELDEST GIRL BECAUSE HE LEFT YOU IN CHARGE OF RUNNING THE KINGDOM... AND YOU COULDN'T EVEN KEEP TRACK OF ONE MERMAID?



ARISTA, YOU CAN BE SUCH A SEA URCHIN SOMETIMES.

WELL, DA SEA KING WON'T HEAR ABOUT DIS FROM ME... BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO COVER FOR DAT GIRL WHEN WE HAVE A PERFORMANCE AND WE SOUND FLATTER DAN A STARFISH! DAT'S ALL I GOT TO SAY!

I JUST DON'T SEE WHY WE SHOULD HAVE TO OBEY THE RULES, AND ARIEL JUST FLITS AROUND.



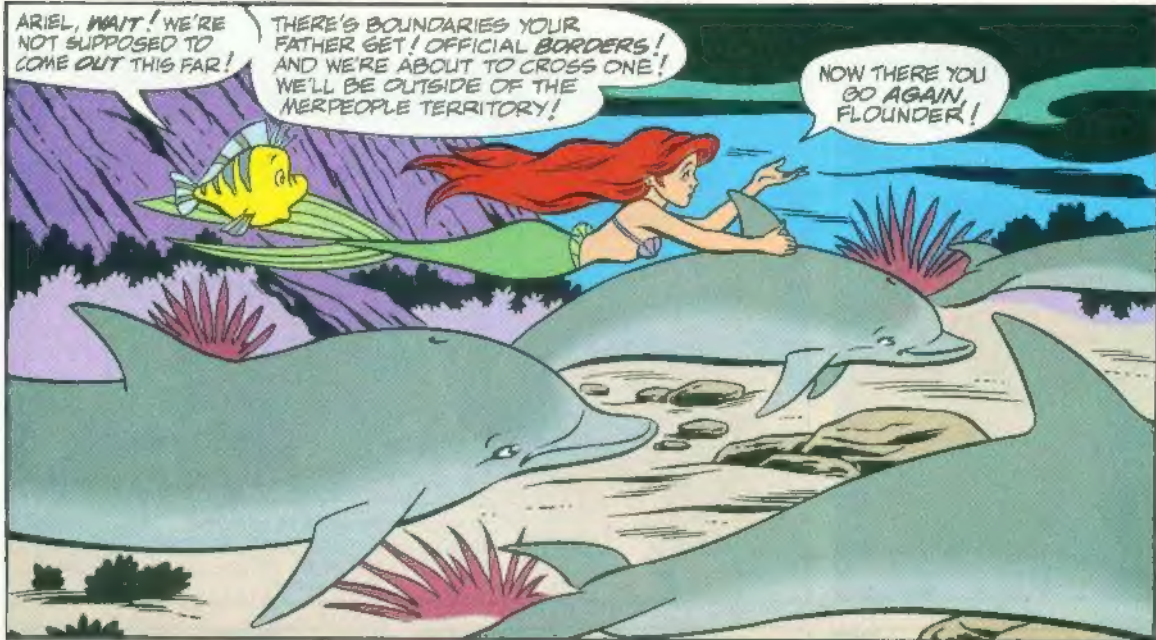
ARISTA CAN BE A REAL TATTLE FISH-TAIL, BUT SHE'S ALSO RIGHT. FATHER TRUSTED ME TO BE CHARGE. I'M SUPPOSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE.

HOW CAN I BE A FUTURE RULER WHEN I CAN'T EVEN GET MY OWN SISTERS TO RESPECT ME?

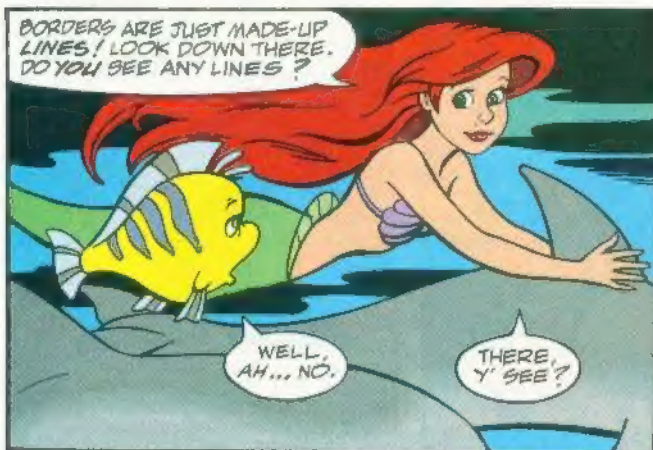
ARIEL, WAIT! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO COME OUT THIS FAR!

THERE'S BOUNDARIES YOUR FATHER SET! OFFICIAL BORDERS! AND WE'RE ABOUT TO CROSS ONE! WE'LL BE OUTSIDE OF THE MERPEOPLE TERRITORY!

NOW THERE YOU GO AGAIN, FLOUNDER!



BORDERS ARE JUST MADE-UP LINES! LOOK DOWN THERE. DO YOU SEE ANY LINES?



WELL, AH... NO.

THERE, Y' SEE?

WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT IMAGINARY LINES? AM I AN IMAGINARY MERMAID?



ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE THINGS YOU CAN SEE, FLOUNDER!

YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, NOT CLOSE THEM IN FEAR!

RULES ARE FINE FOR WHEN YOU'RE LITTLE AND DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. BUT I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.

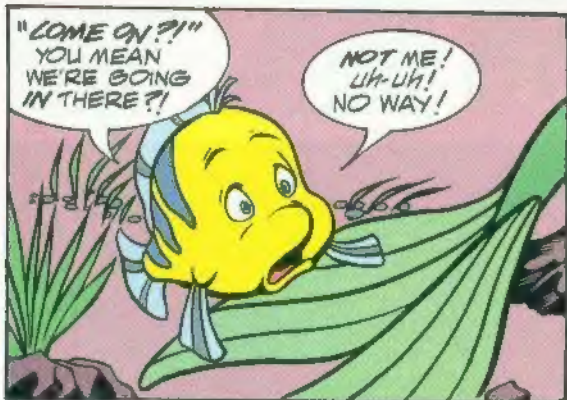


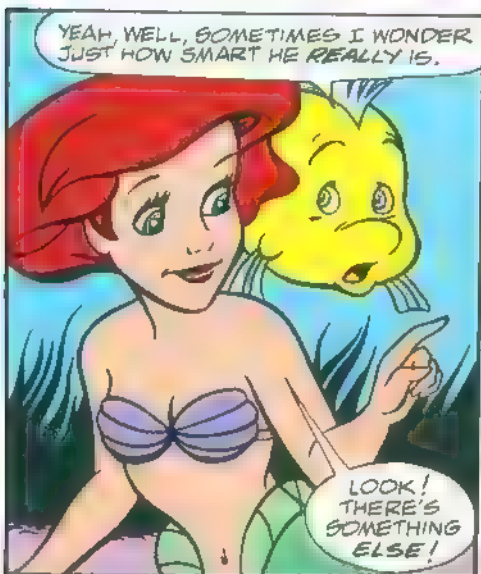
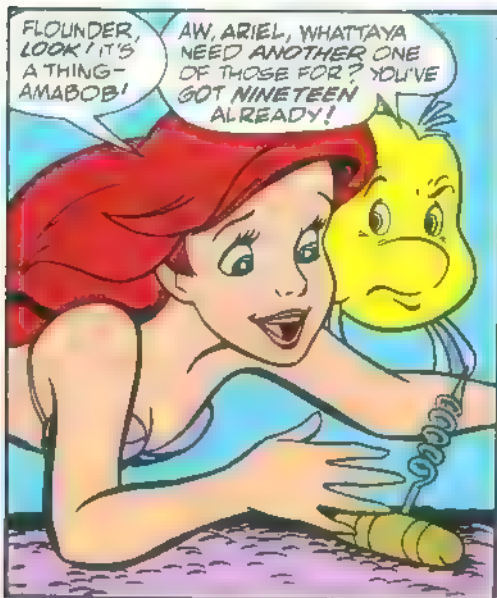
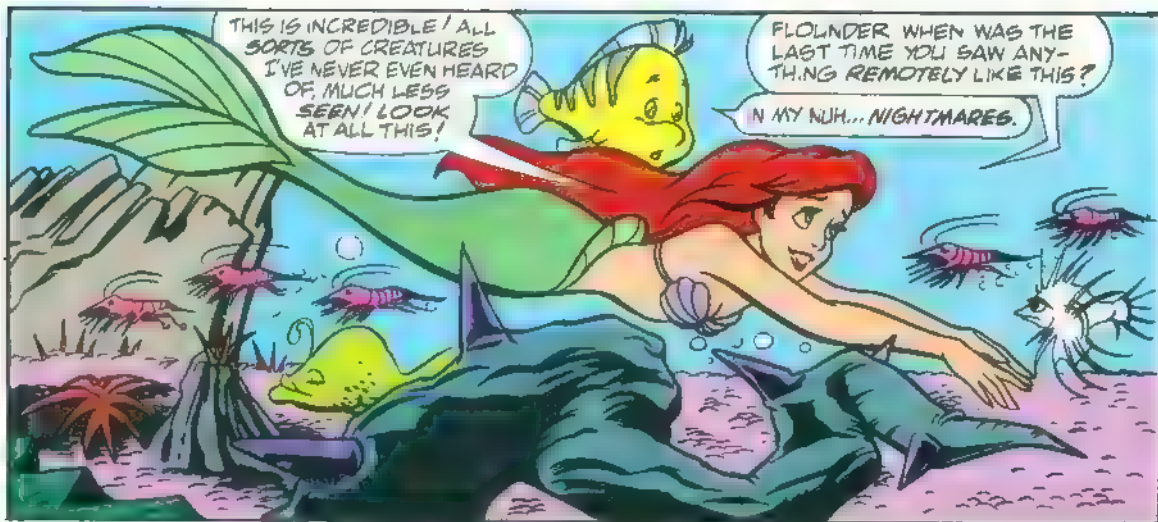
JUST BECAUSE DADDY SAYS THIS AND THAT AND WHATEVER, DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T HAVE A MIND OF MY OWN? I'M OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE MY OWN RULES AND DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT AND WHAT I FEEL LIKE DO--

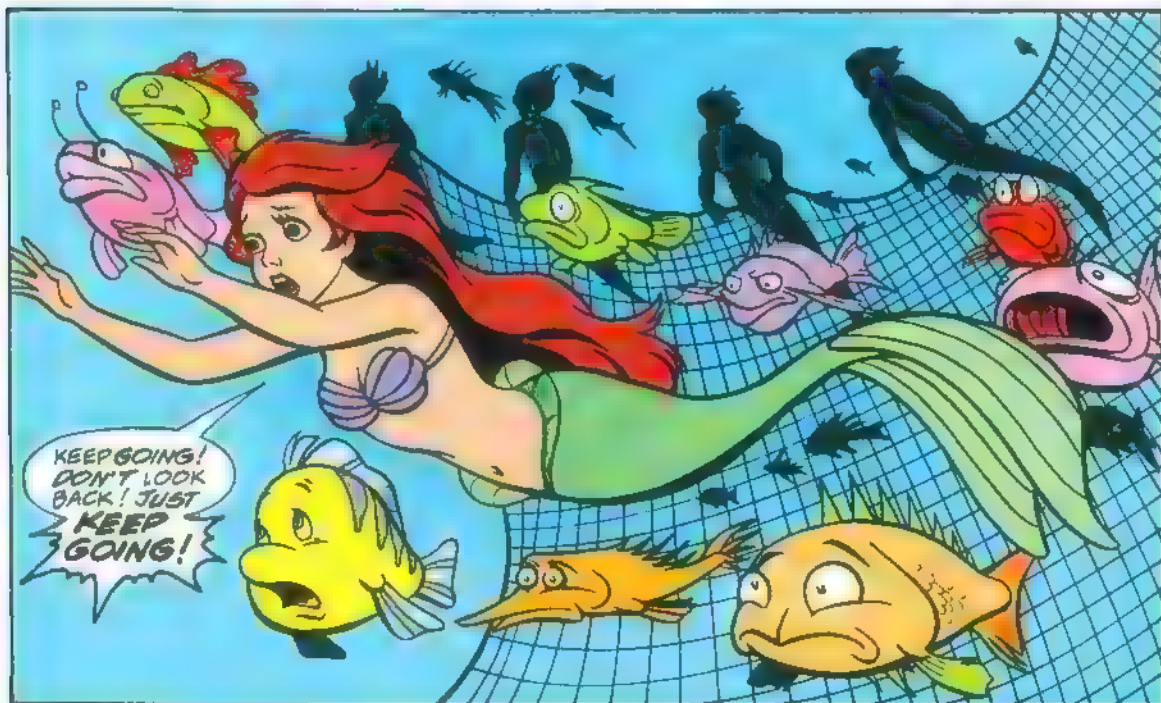
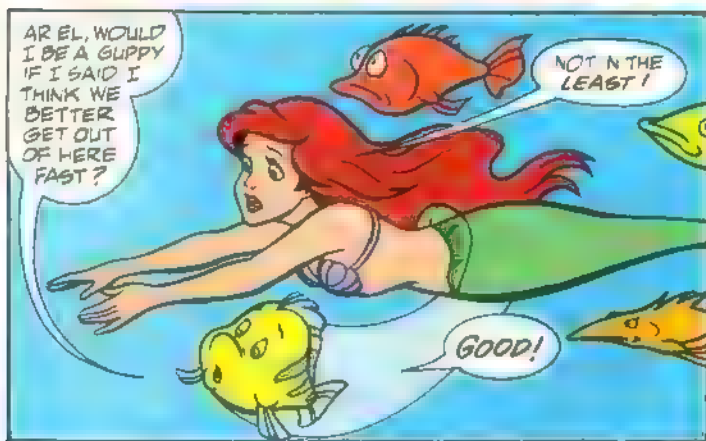
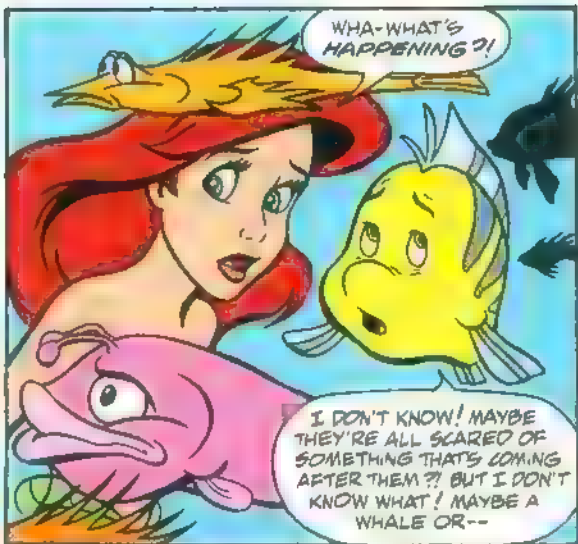
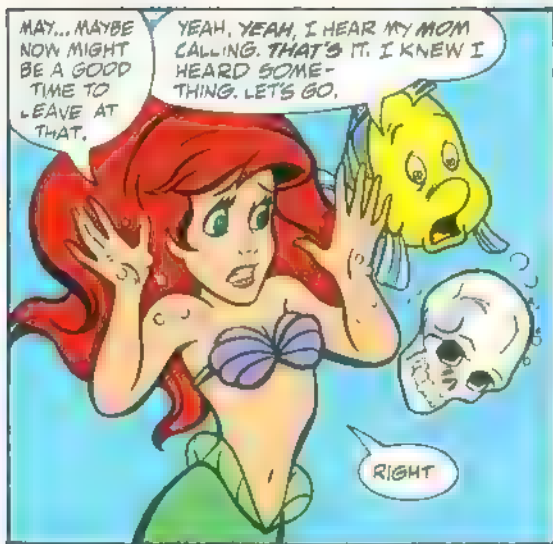
-- IIIIINNNGGG!

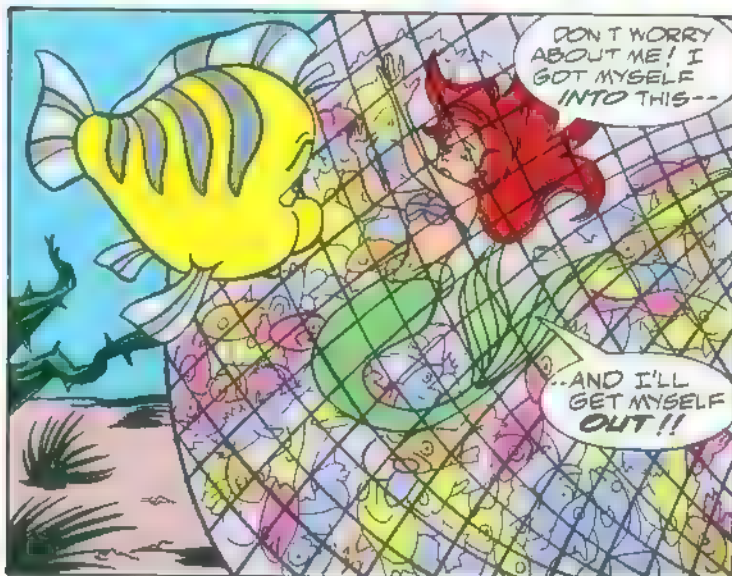
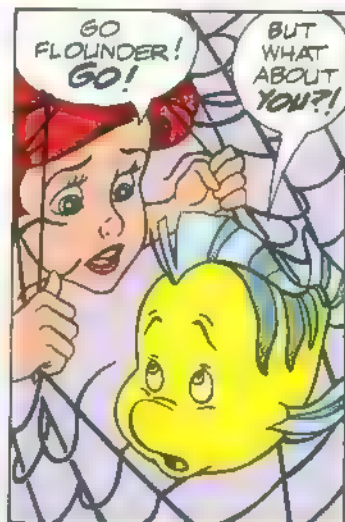
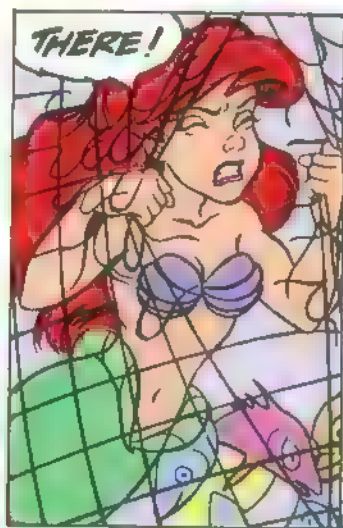
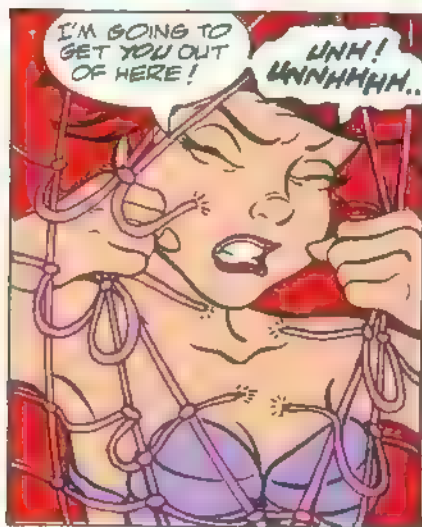
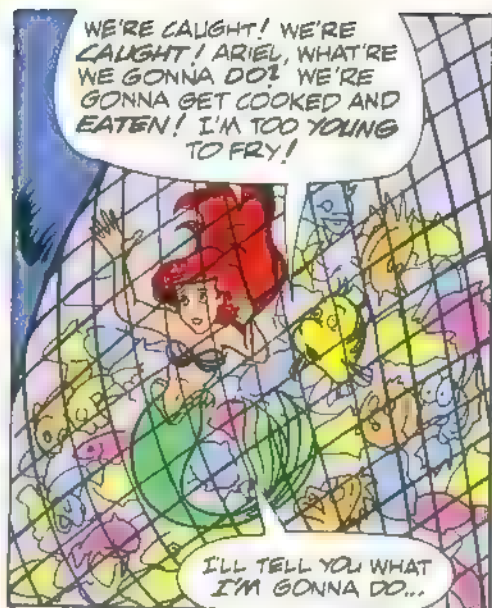
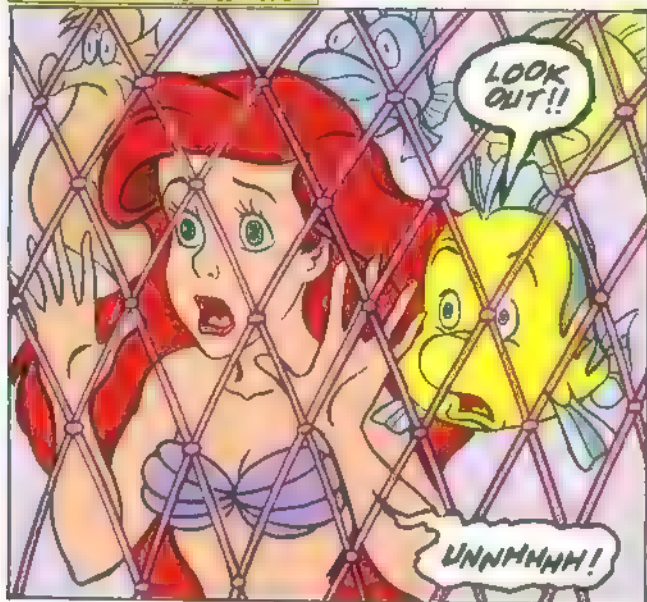


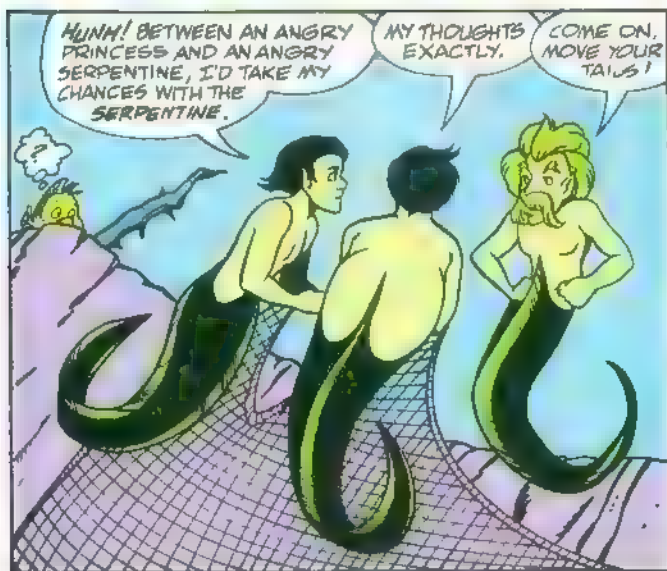
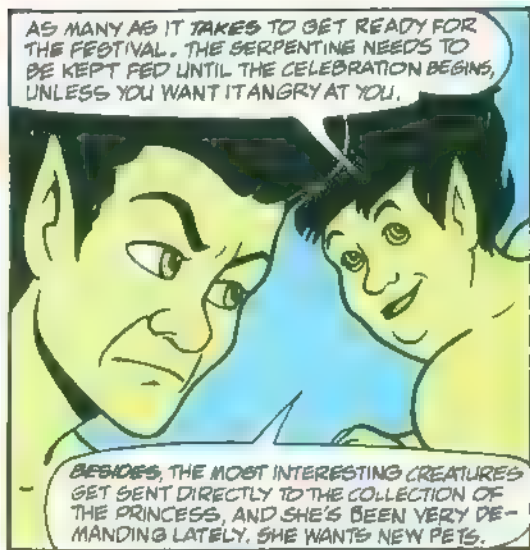


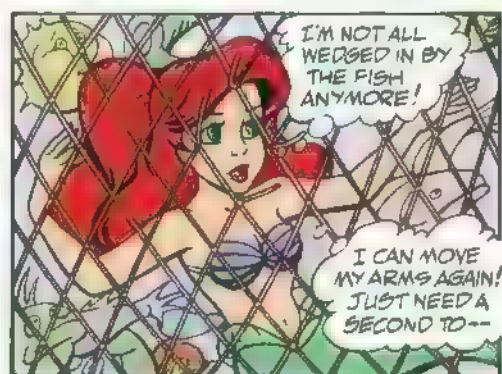
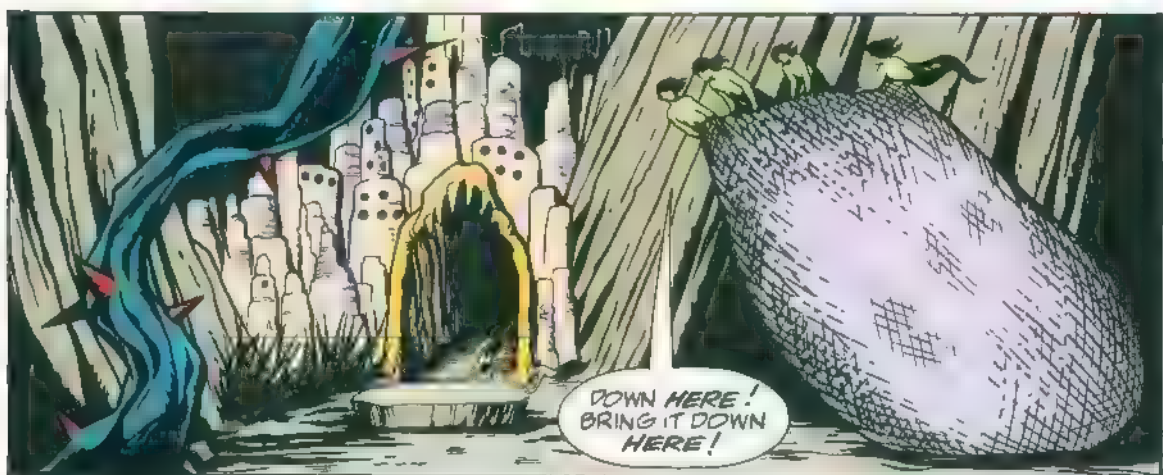
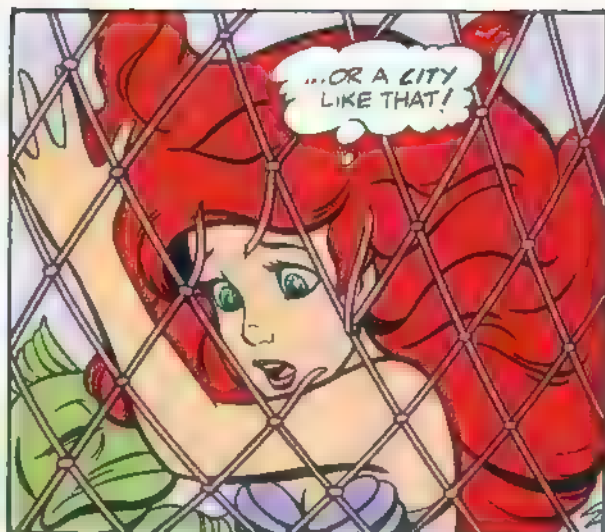
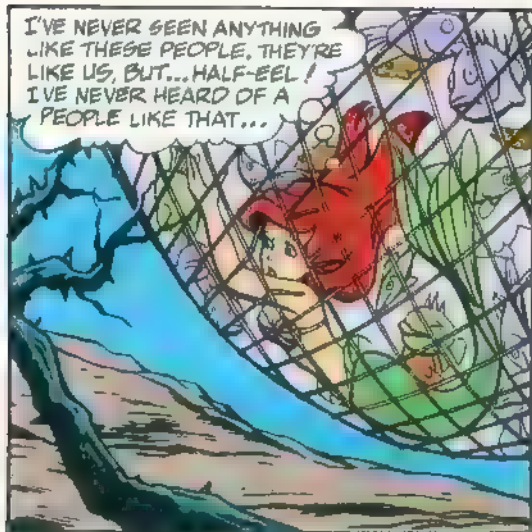


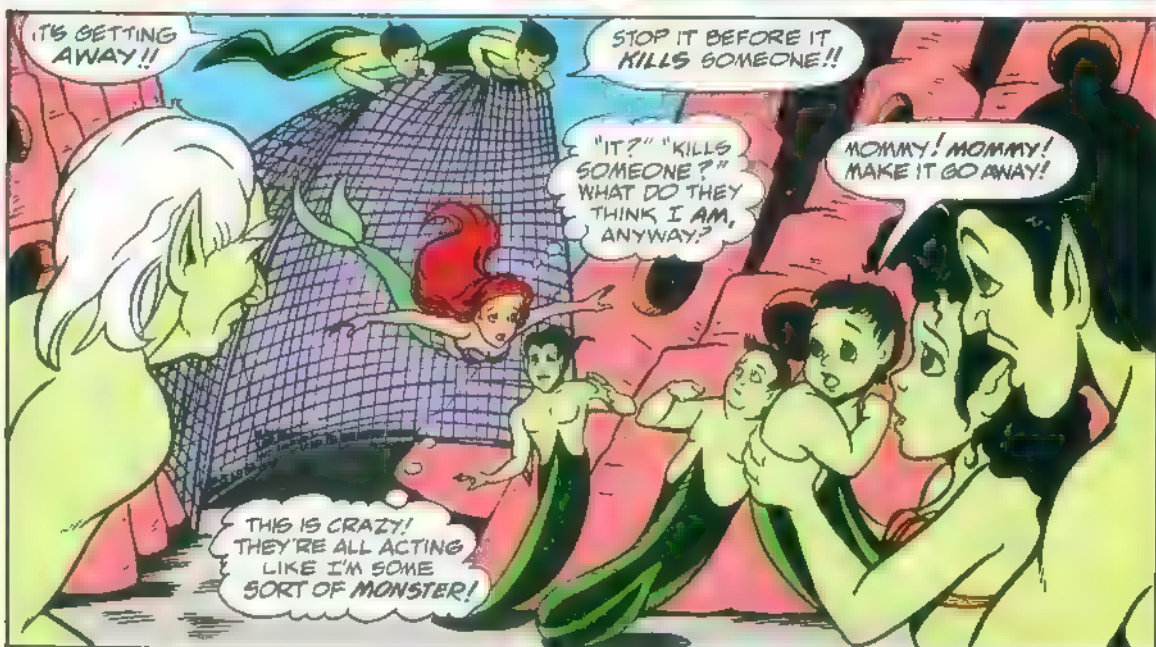
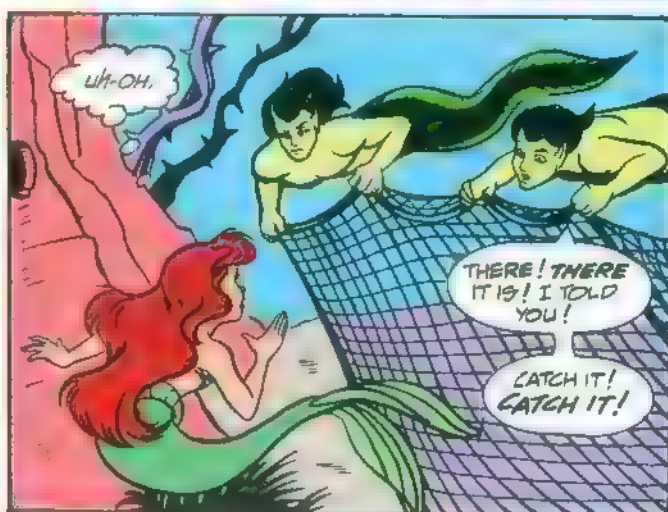
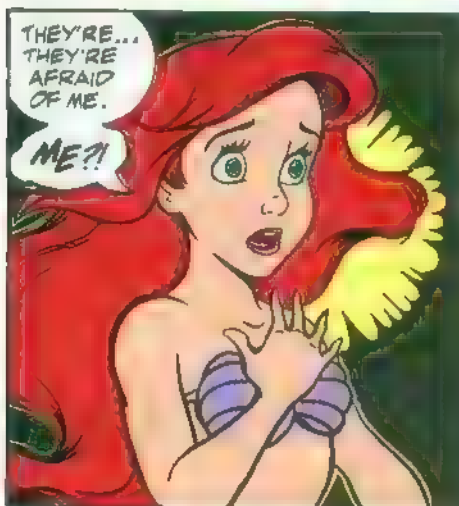
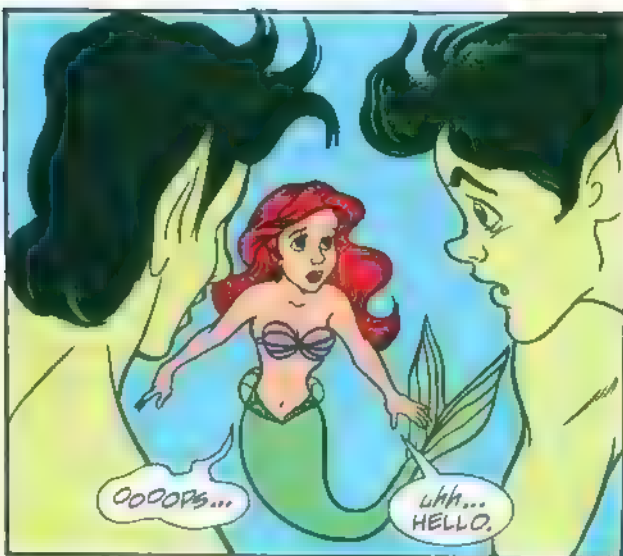


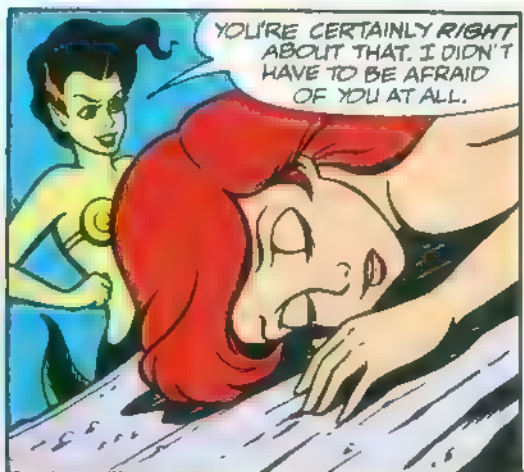
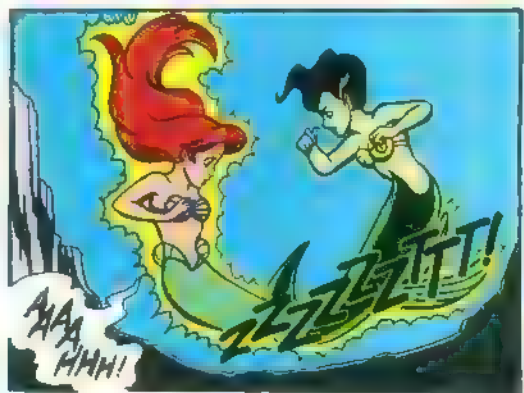
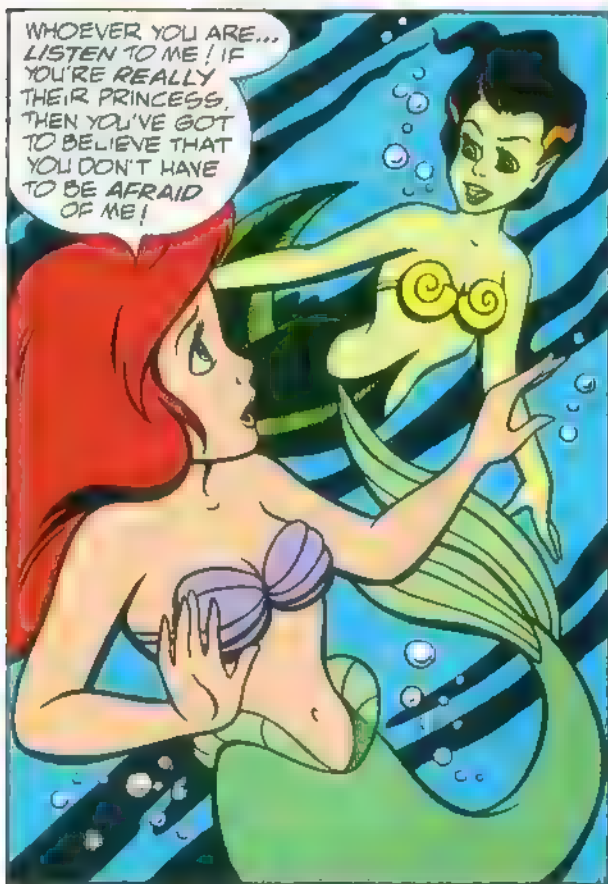
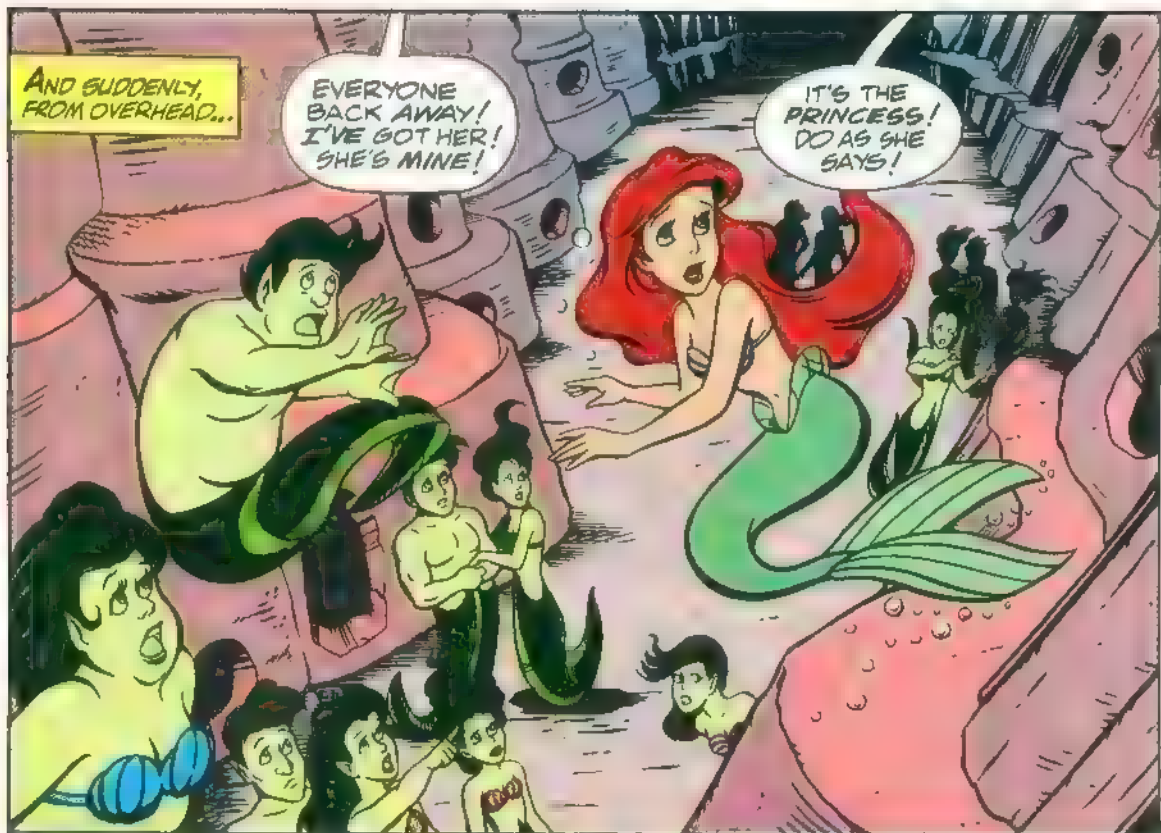


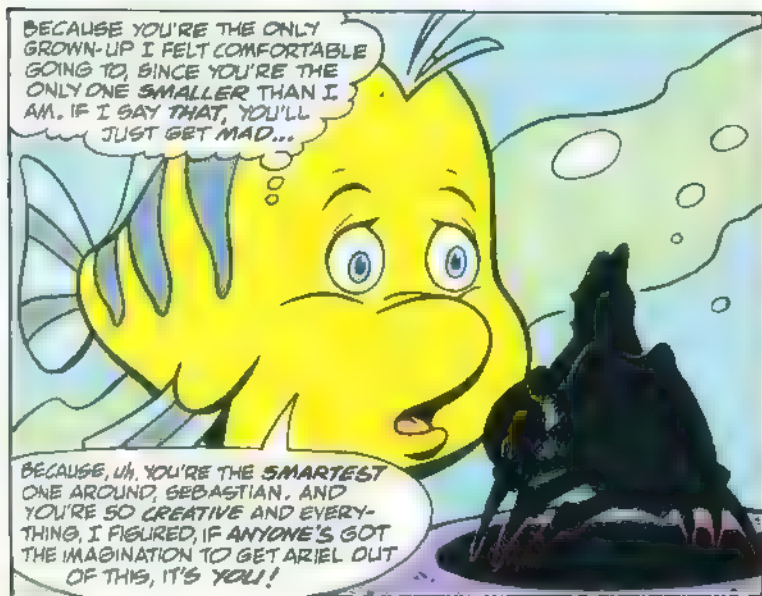
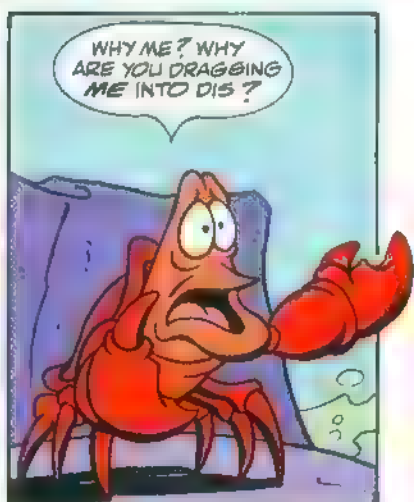
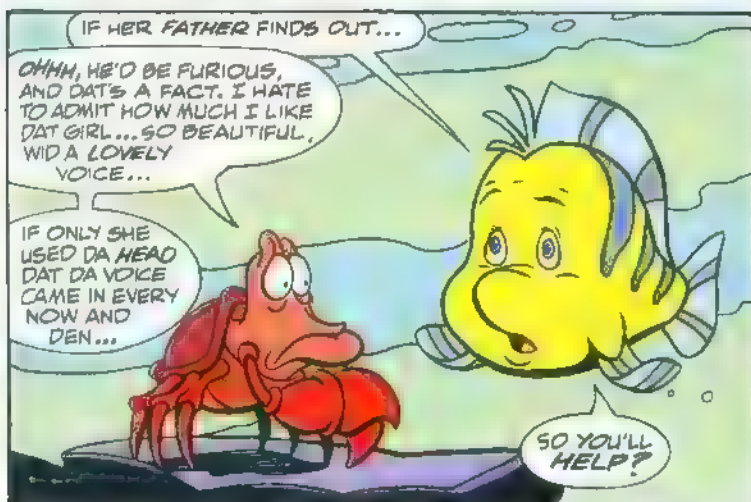
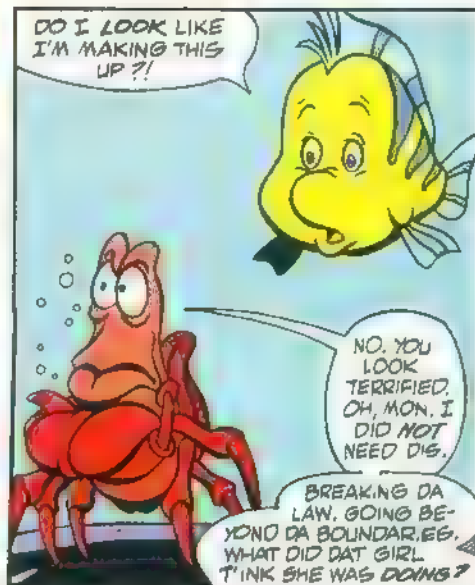
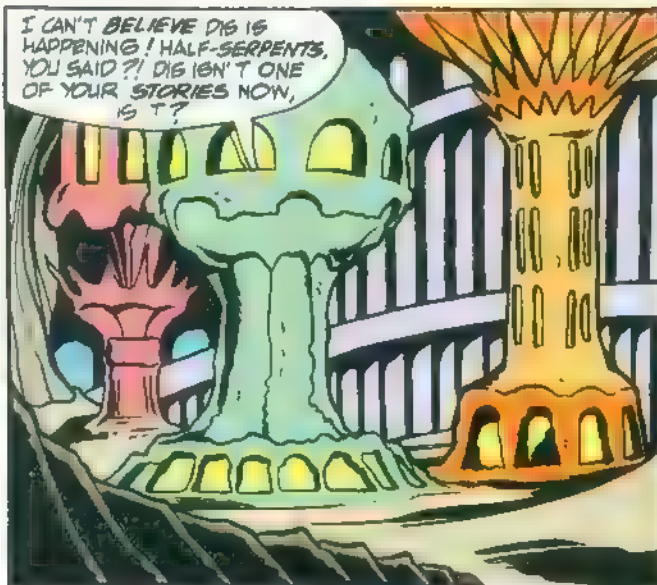


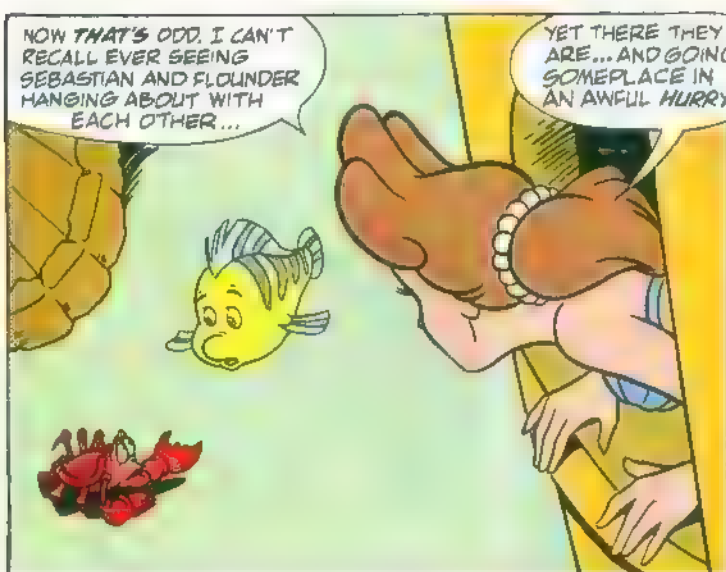






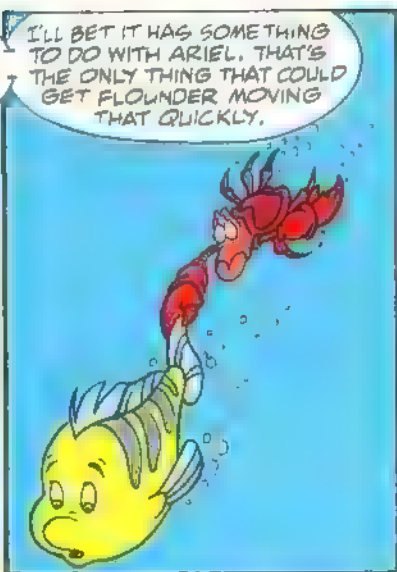




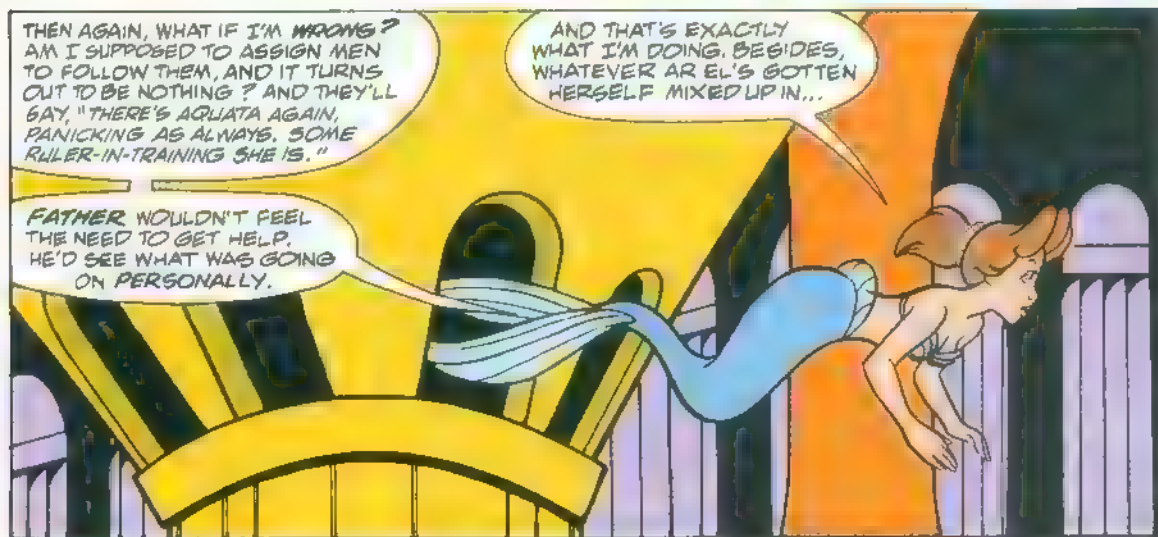


NOW THAT'S ODD. I CAN'T RECALL EVER SEEING SEBASTIAN AND FLOUNDER HANGING ABOUT WITH EACH OTHER...

YET THERE THEY ARE... AND GOING SOMEPLACE IN AN AWFUL HURRY.



I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ARIEL. THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT COULD GET FLOUNDER MOVING THAT QUICKLY.



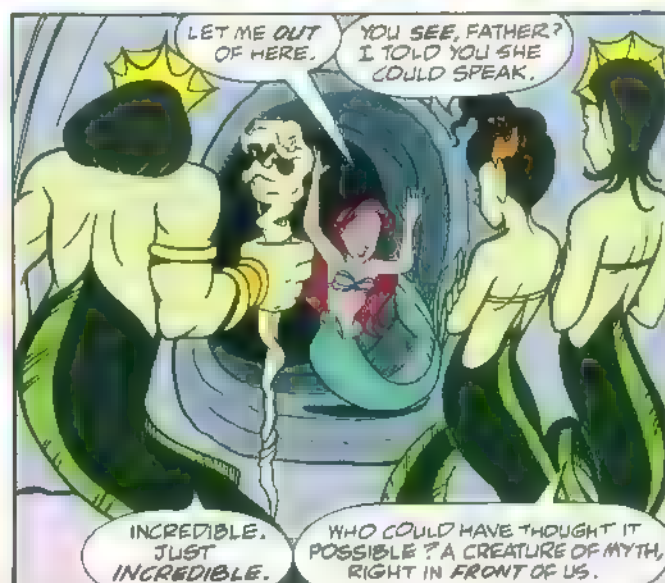
THEN AGAIN, WHAT IF I'M ~~WRONG~~ ? AM I SUPPOSED TO ASSIGN MEN TO FOLLOW THEM, AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING ? AND THEY'LL SAY, "THERE'S AQUATA AGAIN, PANICKING AS ALWAYS. SOME RULER-IN-TRAINING SHE IS."

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING. BESIDES, WHATEVER ARIEL'S GOTTEN HERSELF MIXED UP IN...

FATHER WOULDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO GET HELP. HE'D SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON PERSONALLY.



"I'M SURE I CAN GET HER OUT OF IT."

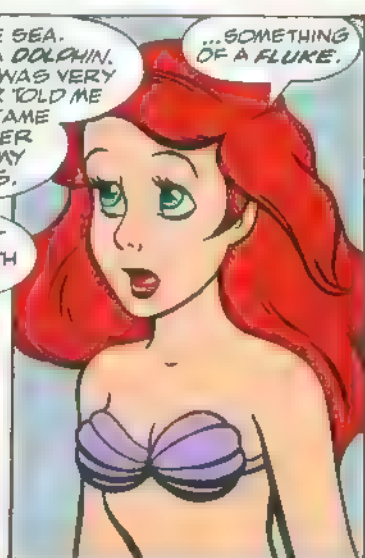
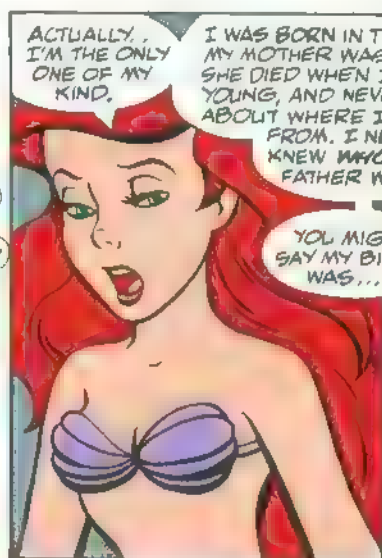
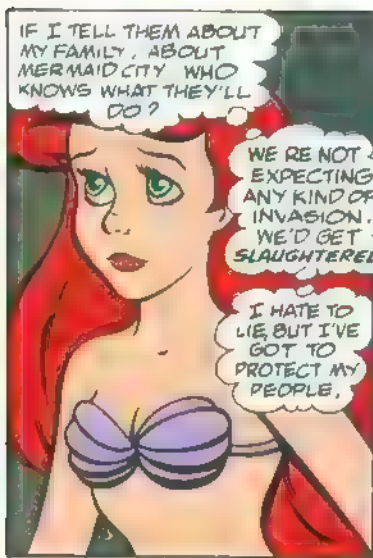
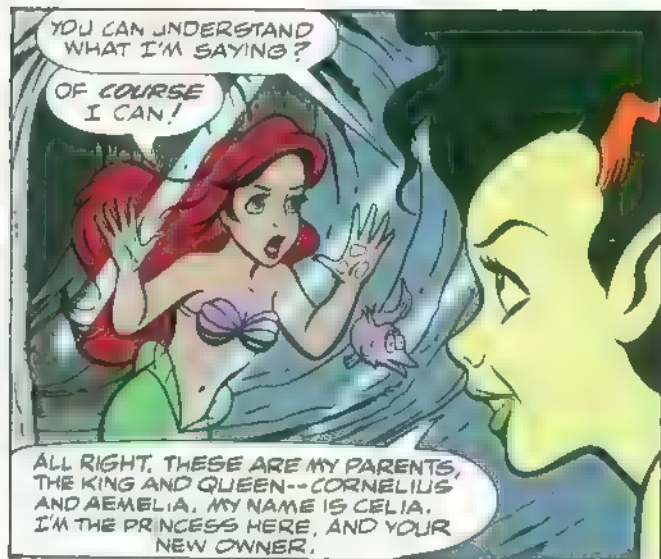


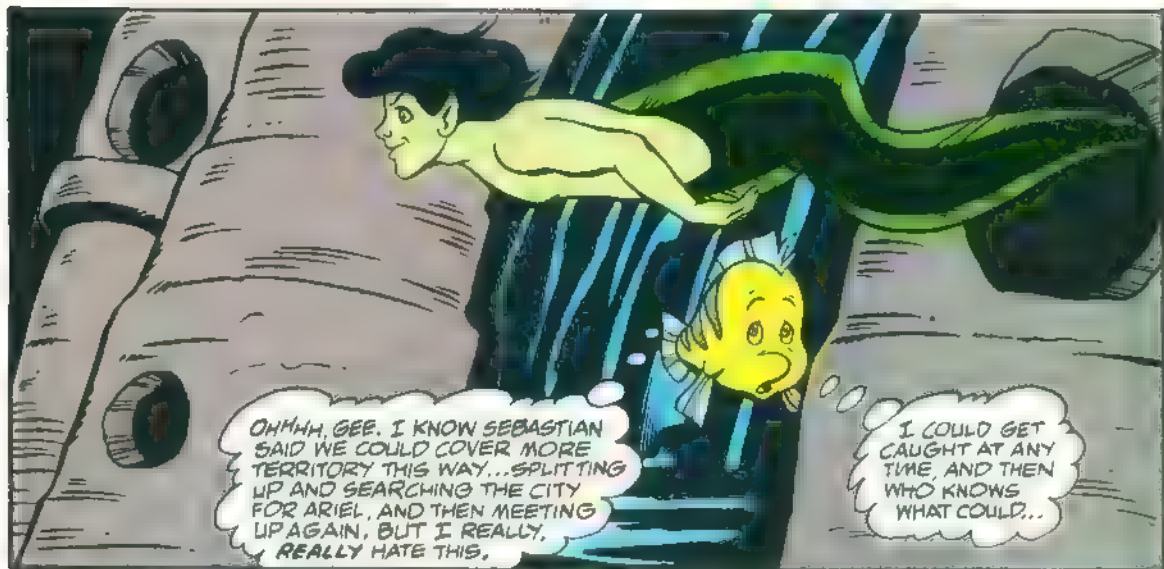
LET ME OUT OF HERE.

YOU SEE, FATHER? I TOLD YOU SHE COULD SPEAK.

INCREDIBLE. JUST INCREDIBLE.

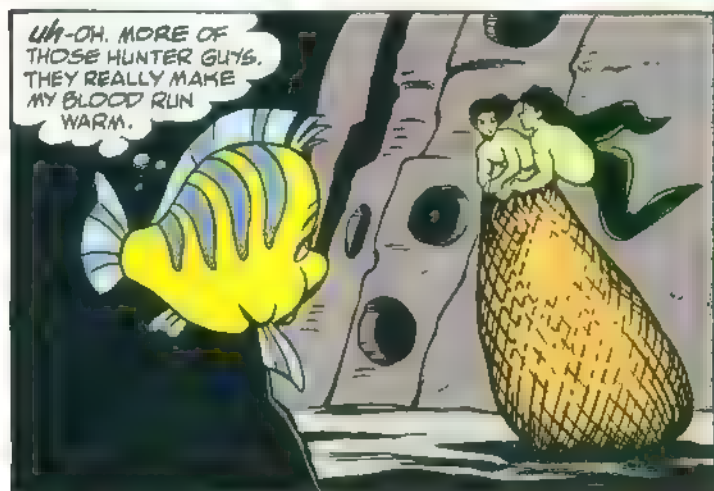
WHO COULD HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE ? A CREATURE OF MYTH, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.





OH-HH, GEE. I KNOW SEBASTIAN SAID WE COULD COVER MORE TERRITORY THIS WAY... SPLITTING UP AND SEARCHING THE CITY FOR ARIEL, AND THEN MEETING UP AGAIN. BUT I REALLY, REALLY HATE THIS.

I COULD GET CAUGHT AT ANY TIME, AND THEN WHO KNOWS WHAT COULD...



UH-OH. MORE OF THOSE HUNTER GUYS. THEY REALLY MAKE MY BLOOD RUN WARM.

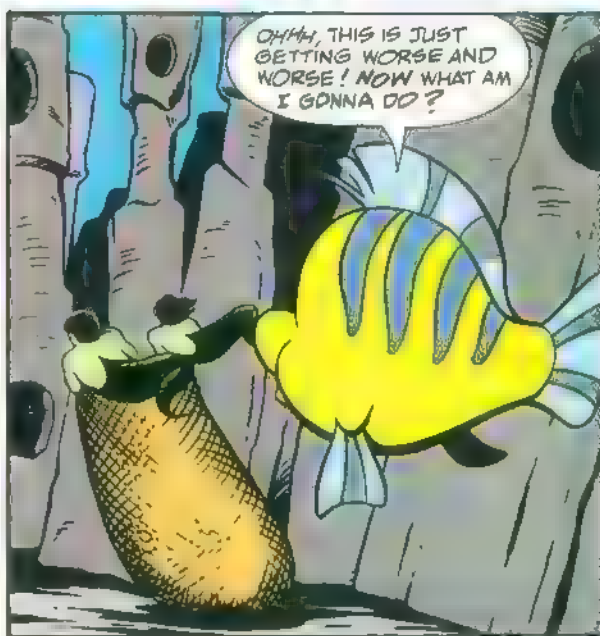


AW, NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THEY CAUGHT--!



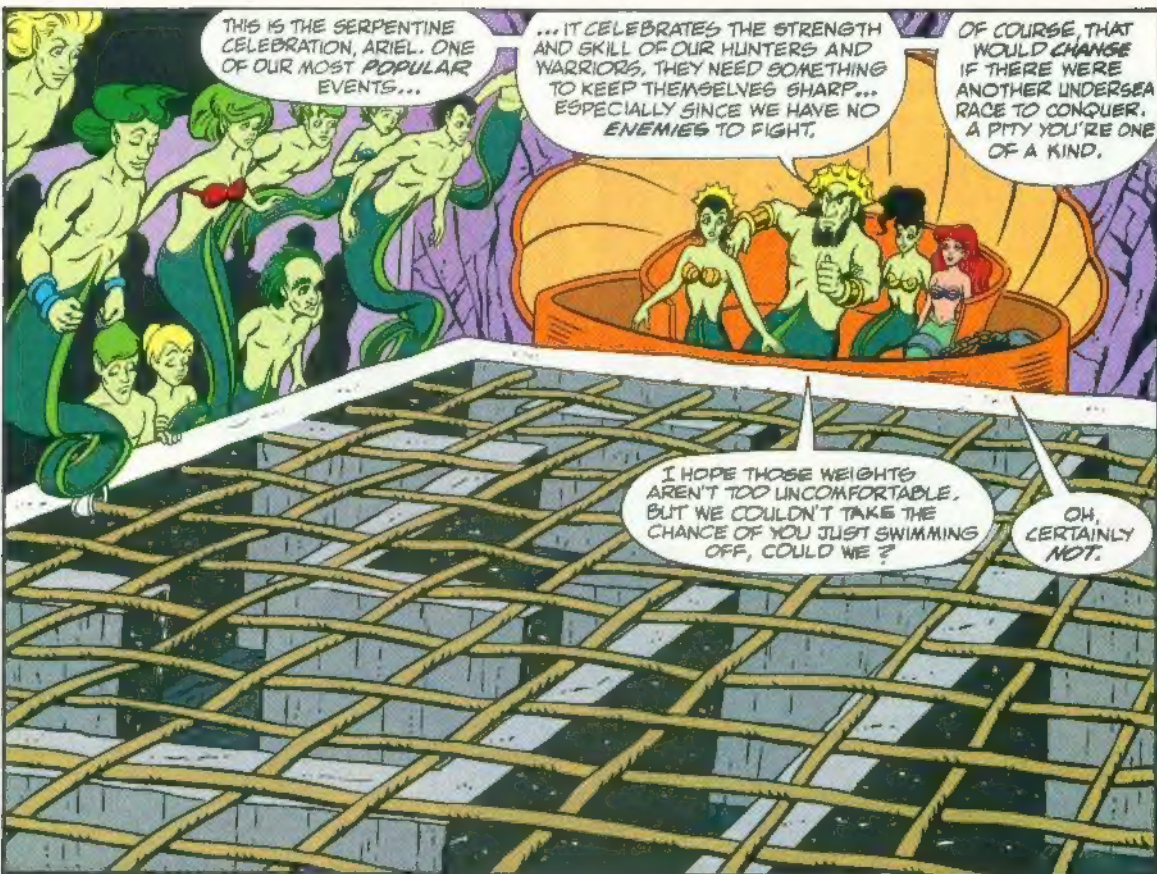
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING? LIKE A YELP?

YOU BEEN WORKIN' TOO HARD! THAT'S YOUR PROBLEM.



OH-HH, THIS IS JUST GETTING WORSE AND WORSE! NOW WHAT AM I GONNA DO?





YOU TOLD ME, ARIEL, THAT YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND. YET LOOK WHAT WE CAUGHT. AND I SUSPECT NOW THAT THERE'S A GREAT DEAL MORE OF YOU.

"MOTHER WAS A DOLPHIN," INDEED. YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR LIES MORE CAREFULLY.

NOW, I DON'T NEED BOTH OF YOU. WHAT I DO NEED IS INFORMATION. AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME, ARIEL. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME PRECISELY WHERE YOU COME FROM, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE THERE IS TO KNOW...



OR OTHERWISE YOUR FRIEND DOWN THERE IS GOING TO BE FISH FOOD.



NEXT: SERPENT TEEN



Under the Sea

Send to:
Disney Comics
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, California 91521-6850

Welcome to the first issue of our **Little Mermaid** limited series. We hope that you'll enjoy these tales of Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, Scuttle and all of our other friends.

What's up in future issues? Well, I don't want to give too much away too soon...let's just say that all of your favorites will be pretty busy in the months ahead.

Writer Peter David will be with us, along with a variety of artists, such as Bill Fugate (who has drawn for **Roger Rabbit's Toontown** and **Mickey Mouse Adventures**); Mark Marderosian, who drew this issue's centerspread; newcomer Scott Benefiel; and Disney animator Dan Gracey. Dave Hunt will be along for the inks.

Our covers will come from such stars as Steve Rude (of **Nexus** and other fine comics) and Philo Barnhart, one of the original designers and animators of Ariel.

Of course, there's someone else whom we'll need on this journey: you. Write to us. Let us know what you like. We'll pay attention.

Since we don't have any letters yet, we'll present a behind-the-scenes treat: an analysis of Ariel given to Disney artists by directing animator Glen Keane. It's dated October 20, 1988, when *The Little Mermaid* was in production.

Ariel

The youngest of seven daughters, Ariel is sixteen years old.

Of the seven, she is the quirky one. Her sisters conform to their roles as princesses and take themselves more seriously than Ariel. Ariel thinks for herself and is independent, impulsive and curious about everything (particularly things dealing with the surface). She does not think things through logically but is motivated by her feelings and emotions.

Ariel is a typical teenage girl with a sense of adventure and romance. She longs to be free of the restrictions set upon her by her environment and by Triton, her father.

She loves her father, and he loves her. He wants what is best for her but does not relate to how she feels. Ariel is Triton's biggest headache but also occupies the place closest to this heart. There is actually a lot of Triton in Ariel. They are both headstrong and act with deep conviction.

Ariel is not passive. She makes things happen. She goes 100 percent in whatever direction she decides. She is uninhibited.

Ariel's fiery side, red hair and all, is balanced by her sweetness. She is naive and innocent, making her vulnerable to the evil intentions of Ursula. She is open to being hurt deeply and is hurt by her father as he destroys her collection and by Ursula as she destroys Ariel's hope of true love and remaining human.

These qualities are all inner. On the outside, Ariel has a sweet beauty. Her face is pretty, leaning to the cute side rather than the glamorous side.

She is sexy in an innocent way, unaware of her natural beauty and appeal. When she moves, there should be an inherent grace and vitality.

She is petite but not frail. Her spontaneous, impulsive personality comes through in her actions.

When animating Ariel, pay close attention to who it is you're animating. Ask yourself:

- * Am I animating Ariel in this scene, or could this be any girl?
- * How would Ariel do this action?
- * How does Ariel feel? What is she thinking?

* What is uniquely Ariel in the way I'm animating her?

Some further notes on animating Ariel:

Fluidity is a key word in how she moves. Her actions are not jerky and stiff but rhythmic and fluid.

Keeping a clear line of action in her pose will help.

Her timing should reflect her impulsive personality. Snappy timing in a head turn or fin swish will give her a brighter, more perky feel.

adventure, as Triton and Ursula confront the Moray, Ariel faces the Serpentine, and Sebastian and Flounder try not to get killed! From Peter David, Bill Fugate and Lea Hernandez comes "Serpent Teen." Plus a short Sebastian story by Peter David and Dan Gracey.

It's all on sale in January under a cover by Steve Rude.



Credits

"The Little Mermaid"
Written by **Peter David**
Penciled by **Chuck Austen**
Finished and inked by **Lea Hernandez** and **Dave Hunt**
Lettered by **Gaspar Saladino**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Mini-poster

Penciled by **Mark Marderosian**
Inked by **Gary Martin**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Cover

Penciled by **Dave Pacheco**
Inked by **Brian Garvey**
Colored by **Jo Meugniot**

Special thanks to **Philo Barnhart** and **Dave Pacheco** for character keying.

Next issue

It's the conclusion of this issue's